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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/008 450	11/29/2001	Roland W. Chow	020431.1024	5671

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EXAMINER

PARDO, THUY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,459

Applicant(s)

CHOW ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy Pardo

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment filed on 3/19/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 8, 13, 16, 21 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on March 19, 2004 in response to Examiner's Office Action has been reviewed.
2. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Adelman et al.** (Hereinafter "Adelman") US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0188528.

As to claim 1, Adelman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising:

receiving a first part number [78 of fig. 7] associated with an item, the first part number associated with the item being defined according to a first part numbering scheme [schema: maintain part lists by internal part numbers because of interchangeability of parts, different parts from different manufacturers, 0049 of page 4];

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searching a database for one or more second part numbers that are associated with the item and also cross-referenced to the first part number associated with the item, the one or more second part numbers associated with the item being defined according to one or more corresponding second part numbering schemes [internal part numbers being correlated to an inputted manufacturer part number inputted in response to the request [0025-0026 of page 2]; and

in response to identifying the one or more second part numbers associated with the item, searching a database for a third part number that is associated with the item and also cross-referenced to at least one second part number associated with the item, the third part number associated with the item being defined according to a third part numbering scheme, the first part number associated with the item being mapped to the third part number associated with the item through the at least one second part number associated with the item [automatically mapping the saved part numbers (more than one part numbers) when a corresponding manufacturer part number becomes known, 0020-0022 of page 2].

As to claim 2, Adelman teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Adelman further teaches that a part numbering scheme of a corresponding customer [fig. 8-9]; each second part number comprises a manufacturer part number and each second part numbering scheme comprises a part numbering scheme of a corresponding manufacturer [ab]; and the third part number comprises an internal part number and the third part numbering scheme comprises an internal part numbering scheme of a corresponding seller [automatically mapping the saved part

numbers (more than one part numbers) when a corresponding manufacturer part number becomes known. 0020-0022 of page 2].

As to claim 3, Adelman teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Adelman further teaches that the third part number comprises a universal part number and the third part numbering scheme comprises a universal part numbering scheme [fig. 10].

As to claim 4, Adelman teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Adelman further teaches that searching a database for the third part number is performed automatically and independent of user input subsequent to identifying the one or more second part numbers [0055-0056 of page 4].

As to claim 6, Adelman teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Adelman further teaches that the first part number is one of a plurality of first part numbers received within a bill of materials (BOM), the method further comprising mapping one or more other first part numbers in the BOM to corresponding third part numbers [fig. 10].

As to claim 7, Adelman teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Adelman further teaches facilitating an electronic commerce transaction involving the item in response to identifying the third part number [the part mapping system, 10 of fig. 2; 0051 of page 4].

As to claims 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23, and 25, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis of claims 1-4, 6, and 7 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 26 is allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination identifying the one or more manufacturer part numbers associated with the item, searching a database for an internal part number that is associated with the item and also cross-referenced to at least one manufacturer part number associated with the item, the internal part number associated with the item being defined according to a part numbering scheme of a corresponding seller, a second item to item specification mapping the specification information for the item associated with the internal part number to the internal part number, the second item to item specification having a first pointer to information, identifying the item associated with the internal part number and a second pointer to specification information for the item associated with the internal part number, the specification information for the item associated with the internal part number substantially matching the specification information for the item associated with the customer part number, the customer part number being mapped to the internal part number through the at least one manufacturer part number, as set forth in claim 26.

5. Claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As to claims 5, 13, and 21, the feature that the first part number is not completely mapped to the third part number in that a plurality of second part numbers are associated with the item, at least some of these second part numbers are cross-referenced to the first part number but not cross referenced to the third part number, and at least some of these second part numbers are cross-referenced to the third part number but not cross-referenced to the first part number; and the method further comprises determining a percentage of second part numbers to which both the first part number and the third part number are cross-referenced; and if the determined percentage is greater than a predetermined value, considering the third part number equivalent to the first part number for purposes of a particular application for the first part number, taken together with other limitations of claims 1, 9, or 17 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to claims 8, 16, and 24, the feature accessing a first item to item specification to map the first part number to specification information for the item associated with the first part number, the first item to item specification having a first pointer to information identifying the item associated with the first part number and a second pointer to the specification information for the item associated with the first part number; and accessing a second item to item specification to map the specification information for the item associated with the third part number to the third part number, the second item to item specification having a first pointer to

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information identifying the item associated with the third part number and a second pointer to specification information for the item associated with the third part number, the specification information for the item associated with the third part number substantially matching the specification information for the item associated with the first part number, taken together with other limitations of claims 1, 9, or 17 was not disclosed by the prior art of record.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 23, and 25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy Pardo, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1091. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows: (703) 872-9306 (Official Communication)

and/or:

(703) 746-5616 *(Use this Fax#, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "Draft" communication. Examiner may request that a formal/amendment be faxed directly to then on occasions).*

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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8. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

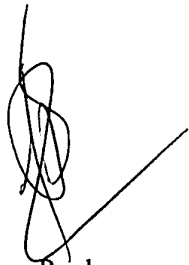
or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).



Thuy Pardo
May 04, 2004